



April 3, 2003

D. Wayne Hedburg
Department of Natural Resources
Division of Oil, Gas and Mining
1594 West North Temple, Suite 1210
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5801

RE: Response to UDOGM letter dated March 25, 2003; Escalante Silver Mine, UDOGM file no. M/021/004

Dear Mr. Hedburg:

Per our phone conversation of March 31, 2003, the best course of action at this time is to re-submit the post mining land use proposal once the State Land Trust/BLM land title dispute has been resolved. Based on available information, we cannot reasonably forecast when this issue will be settled.

In the interim we will re-visit the two other options listed in your letter, and submit a written response before the end of the 2nd quarter 2003.

If you have any questions please contact me at (208) 769-4135 or e-mail: cgypton@hecla-mining.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chris Gypton", written over a horizontal line.

Chris Gypton
Project Manager

RECEIVED

APR 07 2003

DIV. OF OIL, GAS & MINING